

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FRENCH MSAC PROPOSAL RE EMPLOYMENT

REF: A. STATE 163055; B. 76-1110

1. SUMMARY- DURING IT JULY 1 MEETING, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROVISIONALLY AGREED TO ACCEPT SECGEN'S PROPOSED PROCEDURE (REF B) TO IMPLEMENT FRENCH PROPOSAL CONCERNING GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT. EXCOMM ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT: A. MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DISCUSS PROCEDURE AT ITS JULY SESSION; B. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SEMINAR SHOULD NOT BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE "TYPES OF GROWTH",. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING JULY 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GASS GAVE BRIEF BACKGROUND ON FRENCH PROPOSAL TO STUDY EMPLOYMENT POLICY OPTIONS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GROWTH. GASS SAID THAT JUNE 21-22 MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF LOWER GROTH GAVE FRENCH PROPOSAL MORE RELEVANCE. GASS SAID NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM 1976 BUDGET AND THAT A MODEST SUM WOULD BE NEEDED IN 1977 ESSENTIALLY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND PER DIEM. GASS SAID PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN (76) 1110 WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH MSAC AND MCCRACKEN GROUP.

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3. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS BY VARIOUS DELS DURING DISCUSSION.

FRANCE WAS SATISFIED WITH PROCEDURES AND TIME-TABLE. TURKEY INQUIRED IF OECD WILL STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION ON GROWTH PROSPECTS. GERMANY SUGGESTED THAT SINCE PROPOSAL IS CLOSELY RELATED TO WORK OF MCCrackEN GROUP, SECRETARIAT SHOULD ARRANGE MEETING OF EXPERTS OF TWO GROUPS TO DECIDE IF SEMINAR COULD IN FACT, BE USEFUL. UK WANTED TO KEEP COSTS WITHIN CURRENT BUDGET AND THOUGHT THAT SEMINAR SHOULD BE HELD SOONER THAN PROJECTED AND THAT MSAC SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES FIRST, AFTER WHICH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COULD REVIEW THEM. US, PER INSTRUCTION IN REFTEL, OBJECTED TO BROADENING PROPOSAL'S TERMS OF REFERENCE TO "TYPES OF GROWTH" IN PARA 3 OF (76) 1110 AND JOINED UK SUGGESTION THAT MSAC BE CONSULTED FIRST RATHER THAN AFTER PROCEDURE IS ESTABLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED. CANADA URGED CAUTION AGAINST OVERLY AMBITIOUS PROJECT AS PROPOSED SEMINAR SHOULD BE "SMALL AND MODEST" RATHER THAN LARGE, COSTLY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM. EEC INQUIRED AS TO COMPOSITION OF SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS (GOVERNMENTAL, ACADEMIC, WORKER, EMPLOYER, ETC.). VIRTUALLY ALL DELS WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT MORE CLARIFICATION OF PROPOSAL'S OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK ARE REQUIRED. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SAID THAT PROPOSAL WAS CLOSELY LINKED WITH WORK ON MCCrackEN GROUP AND THAT SECRETARIAT AND COUNCIL SHOULD EXPLORE THIS RELATIONSHIP.

4. RESPONDING TO POINTS RAISED, SECRETARIAT (ELDIN AND GASS) OFFERED THE FOLLOWING'S WHILE FRENCH PROPOSAL DOES RELATE TO ALL ASPECTS TO ECONOMIC POLICY, RELATIONSHIP IS NOT SO CLOSE THAT WORK CANNOT PROCEED INDEPENDENTLY. THE FRENCH ARE SIMPLY ASKING WHETHER VIABLE ALTERNATIVES EXIST TO DEMAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES TO IMPROVE BALANCE BETWEEN LABOR DEMAND AND SUPPLY. SEMINAR WILL NOT ENCOMPASS MIGRATION WHICH IS A "DIFFERENT EXERCISE".

5. CONCLUSIONS-

-A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GAVE TACIT APPROVAL TO SEC GEN'S PROPOSALS BY PROVISIONALLY AGREEING TO ACCEPT DRAFT ENTRY IN MINUTES WITH RIGHT TO RESUME DISCUSSION AT ITS JULY 13 MEETING:

B. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE PAPER FOR MSAC DISCUSSION;
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C. WORD "SEMINAR" WILL BE REPLACED BY "MEETING".

D. FIVE THEMES (E.&., HOURS WORKED, WOMEN, AND YOUTH, LABOR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES) WILL BE DISCUSSED IN ONE DOCUMENT AND ALL PAPERS WILL BE PREPARED FOR MARCH 1977 MEETING BY THE END OF 1976?

E. PER INSTRUCTIONS REF A. TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL NOT BE BROADENED AND PARA 3 OF REF B WILL BE DELETED.

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